GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have a Sale-Purchase Agreement (SPA) with the National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC), which was concluded on 13 June 2005 in Tehran, for the import of 5 MMTPA of LNG, beginning from the last quarter of 2009. The Iranian authorities have re-affirmed that the agreement with India on LNG supply is valid and will be fully implemented.

Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project is completely separate from the LNG project. The discussion of the Government of India with the Governments of Iran and Pakistan on this project are progressing satisfactorily. The reported refusal of GE company to supply crucial equipments for LNG project is not related to the gas pipeline project.

Adulteration in petroleum products

682. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Anti-Adulteration Cell for petroleum products has been wound up in 2004;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) what alternative steps have been taken to check adulteration in petroleum products;

(d) whether the alternative steps have proved more effective to checking adulteration in petroleum products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Anti-Adulteration Cell (AAC), was set up in March 2001 under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOP&NG). It was found to be ineffective in its functioning on account of the possible involvement of some of its officers who are under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for undesirable activities. Therefore, a one-man committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas was set up in April, 2004 to conduct an extensive review of the working of the AAC. The report showed that the AAC, with its existing structure and functions, could not

play a meaningful role in the Ministry's efforts to curb the menace of adulteration. Accordingly, the Cell was wound up in July 2004.

(c) to (e) The Government/Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have taken the following steps to contain the menace of adulteration:

(i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have taken up this matter with all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to step up inspections/surprises checks to ensure that adulteration-related activities are minimized and to exercise vigil/conduct inspections at various private firms, factories, processing units, etc., under their jurisdictions so as to identify the perpetrators of adulteration and take stringent action against them within the available legal framework.

(ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for penalty of termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

(iii) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

(iv) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

(v) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en route adulteration by transporters.

(vi) Information Technology (IT) solutions like monitoring movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS) and monitoring level of fuel tank in Retail Outlets through retail automation are being introduced.

(vii) Branding of Retail Outlets and third party certification of Retail Outlets have been initiated by the OMCs.

(viii) Effective 2nd October 2005, Government launched the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana as a pilot projects in 420 blocks for a period of six months with a view to strengthening and streamlining the infrastructure for kerosene distribution and involving the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats and State Panchayati Raj Institutions in the supervision of PDS kerosene distribution, so as to ensure that entitled beneficiaries actually receive their entitlement and diversion to adulteration and black-marketing is capped, reversed and eventually eliminated. The pilot project is being concurrently evaluated by NCAER and, on the basis of the experience gained, Government will determine the possibility and desirability of extending the Pariyojana to cover all blocks in the country.

Measures to check adulteration are kept under continuous review of the Government.

Shifting of ONGC offices

†683. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many offices of ONGC, Dehradun have been either closed or opened somewhere else and number of employees and officers working therein have been reduced;

(b) whether local public representative have submitted memorandum to them against this step; and

(c) if so, the reasons for reducing the number of employees of ONGC, Dehradun and what steps are been taken to address the above grievances of the public representatives?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir. ONGC has neither closed nor shifted any offices from DehraDun. The marginal reduction in the number of officers/

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.